

TS # 173194
USIB-D-29.1/7
4 May 1962

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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : The Watch Committee and the National
Indications Center

REFERENCES : a. USIB-M-206, 21 March, item 5
b. USIB-M-208, 4 April, items 10 and 11

Attached for information and record purposes is a copy of the DCI's memorandum regarding the Watch Committee and the National Indications Center together with copies of the inclosures thereto, in the form in which this correspondence was transmitted to the Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board on 30 April. As will be noted, the inclosures include General Fitch's memorandum report of 1 March concerning this matter (circulated to Board members as an attachment to USIB-D-28.5/2, 2 March, TS # 173148) and Mr. J. Patrick Coyne's memorandum of 5 February on the same subject (initially distributed to Board members as USIB-D-29.1/6, 13 February, TS # 173141).

Acting Executive Secretary

Attachments

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

30 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

SUBJECT: The Watch Committee of the United States Intelligence
Board and the National Indications Center

1. In response to your suggestion of earlier this year, I have, with the assistance of the members of the United States Intelligence Board, completed a review of the functions and operation of the Watch Committee, USIB, and its National Indications Center (NIC) to determine what actions should be taken to improve the effectiveness of those groups to carry out their early warning mission. Our general findings and conclusions with respect to this aspect of the warning problem are contained in the attached report (Tab A) which was prepared by a select study committee of Intelligence Board members and approved by the USIB at a recent meeting.

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4. I regard the early warning problem as of the highest importance and the most critical responsibility of the entire U. S. intelligence community. On that premise and on the basis of the attached report I have initiated the following actions to improve and provide support to the Watch Committee and National Indications Center, so that those groups may effectively discharge their responsibilities for continuous surveillance of indications of hostile Soviet intentions:

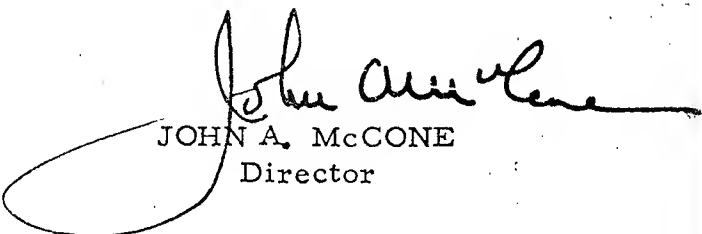
a. Designated the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence as Chairman of the Watch Committee, USIB, and urged that the representatives of Intelligence Board agencies on that Committee be maintained at a high level.

b. Requested that consideration be given to changing the name of the NIC to avoid any implication that the NIC is engaged in operational or tactical warning alert missions.

c. Directed that arrangements be made to augment the personnel strength of the NIC.

d. Requested that arrangements be made to establish a formal link between the NIC and the Defense Intelligence Agency Current Intelligence Indications Center.

e. Proposed an overall review of the status of implementation of the recommendations in the Warning Systems Survey Report as approved by USIB on 21 March 1961.


JOHN A. McCONE
Director

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